

**E-Read**  
**TEXAS**

**E-Read Texas:  
TSLAC, Amigos,  
and SimplyE**

January 27, 2022


Karen McElfresh, TSLAC  
Christine Peterson, Amigos

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**E-Read Texas – An Overview**

- E-book program for small to medium-sized public libraries
  - Primary goal: to help libraries offer e-books to their patrons
  - Separate from TexShare databases
  - 167 libraries participating to date
- Access to e-book collection of 10,000+ titles
- Access to SimplyE mobile app
  - TSLAC contracts Amigos to provide hosting and implementation
  - Libraries work with Amigos to add content



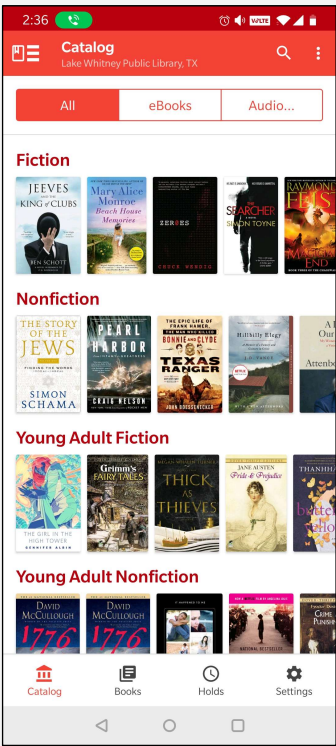
**E-Read**  
**TEXAS**

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## Who Can Join?

- Public libraries serving a community of no more than 100,000 people
  - Based on Public Libraries Annual Report data
- Libraries serving communities of more than 100,000 people can join if e-collection expenditures are under \$100,000/year
- Must submit an annual report to TSLAC each year



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## Supported Systems

- Auto-Graphics VERSO
- Biblionix Apollo
- Book Systems Atrium
- Evergreen
- Koha
- Ill: Sierra & Polaris
- TLC CARLX
- SirsiDynix: Symphony & Horizon

### Have another system?

Contact:

[TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org)

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## What does it cost?

- **No cost for public libraries serving population of less than 100,000**
  - SimplyE hosting fees are 100% paid by TSLAC
  - E-books are purchased by TSLAC

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## E-Read Texas Collection

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## Collection Scope



- Complement collections maintained by small and medium-sized public libraries in Texas
- Mostly adult fiction and popular non-fiction
- Collection development policy:  
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
- TSLAC responsible for collection decisions
  - Support and input from the E-Read Texas Working Group:  
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/ebooksworking.html>

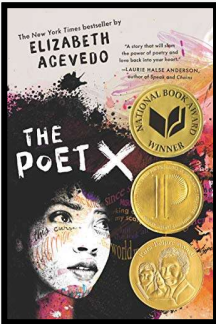
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## What Content does E-Read Texas Offer?

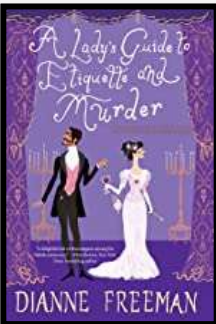
*Over 10,000 titles and growing*



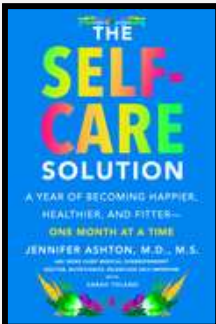
Award Winners



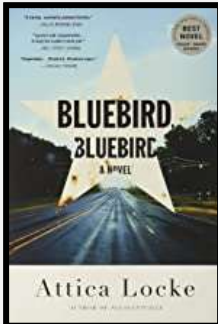
YA Fiction



Genre Fiction



Popular Non-Fiction



Popular Fiction

8



Fiction



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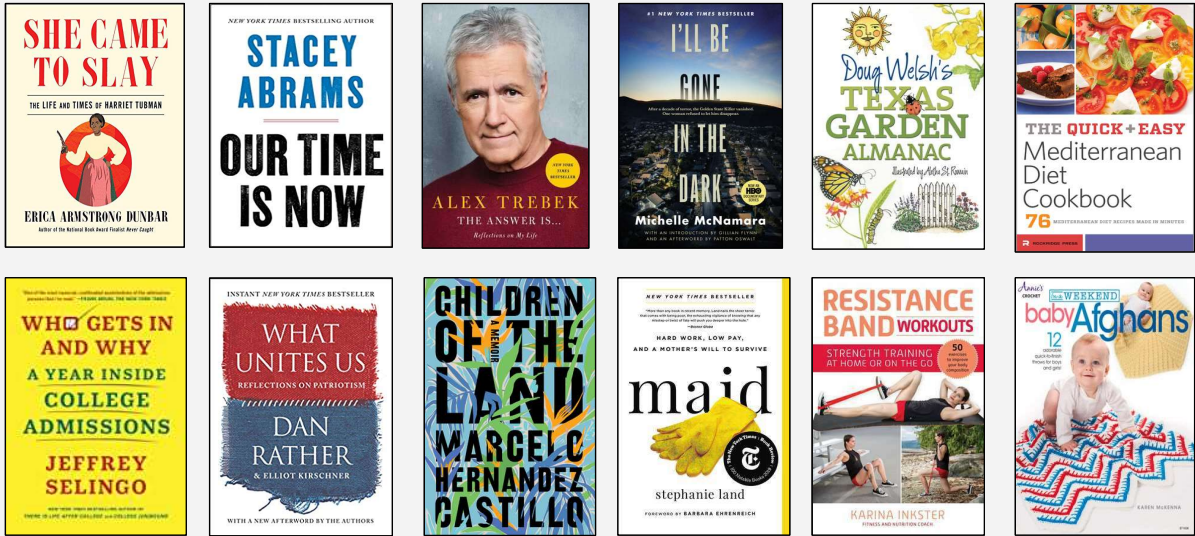
Fiction – New Content



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Non-Fiction



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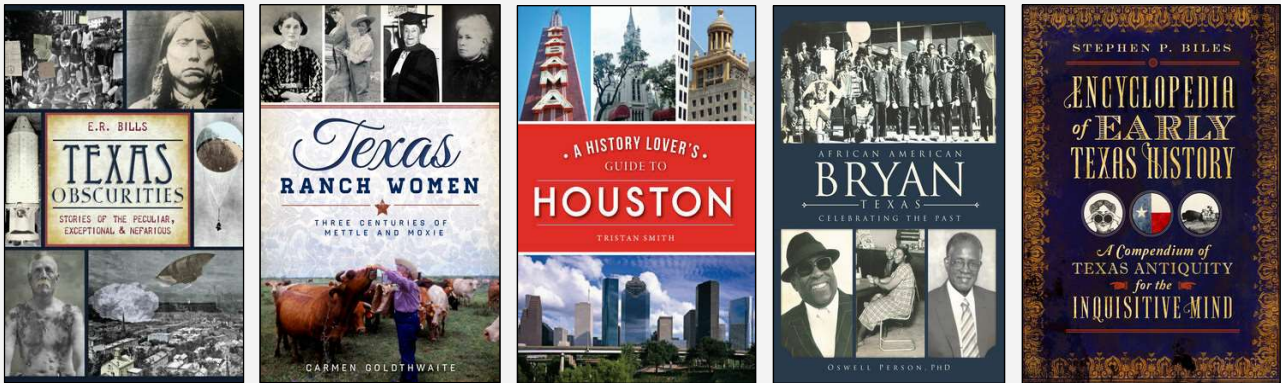
Non-Fiction – New Content



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Arcadia Press



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Audiobooks



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100+ Publishers

  
SIMON &  
SCHUSTER

  
SCRIBNER

  
Harper  
Collins

  
hachette  
BOOK GROUP

  
MACMILLAN

  
workman

  
ATRIA  
BOOKS

  
INSIGHT  
GUIDES

  
Cinco  
Puntos  
Press

  
ROWMAN &  
LITTLEFIELD

  
Fodor'sTravel

  
DOVER

  
LONE  
STAR  
PUBLISHING

Not included  
(for now)

  
Penguin  
Random  
House

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Providers and License Models

● Unlimited Collection

○ Biblioboard: <https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home>

■ Perpetual Access

■ Unlimited simultaneous users

■ Available online AND via SimplyE

■ Catalog records available

● Limited Collection

○ Multiple access models (1-year, 2-year, metered access, perpetual, open access)

○ Most are one simultaneous user

○ Available ONLY via SimplyE

○ No catalog records at this time

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# Copies and Holds

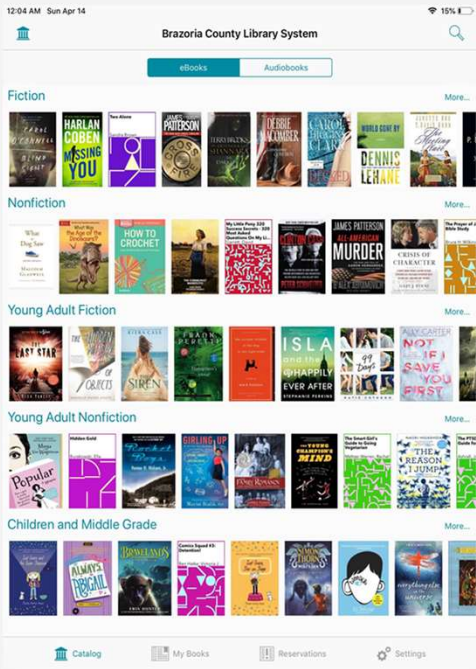
**Preferred:** perpetual non-metered access with unlimited simultaneous use

**But sometimes we can't avoid limits:**

- **Initial copies**
  - Non-fiction: 2-5
  - Fiction: 2-10 copies
    - High-demand fiction is expected to be needed for book club titles and school assignments
- **Hold ratio**
  - 6 holds per copy for e-books until a maximum of 250 copies is purchased
  - After 250 copies of any single title are purchased, TSLAC may attempt to negotiate a statewide license with publishers

# Local Content Control

- Your library can curate lists and lanes
- Subjects and classifications can be changed on a title-by-title basis
- Titles can be hidden for your library only





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*SimplyE is an open source ebook & audiobook platform developed by libraries for libraries. It simplifies your patrons' users experience finding, borrowing and reading your library.*

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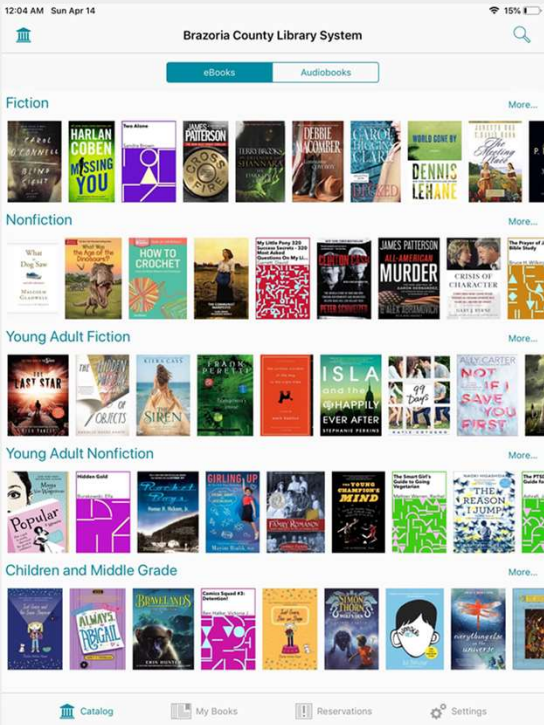
# SimplyE Replaces This . . .



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21

# With This . . .



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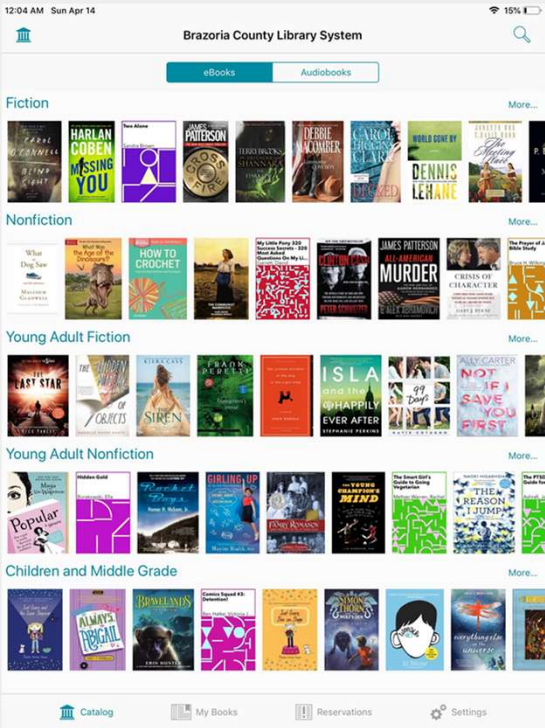


Current Content Providers

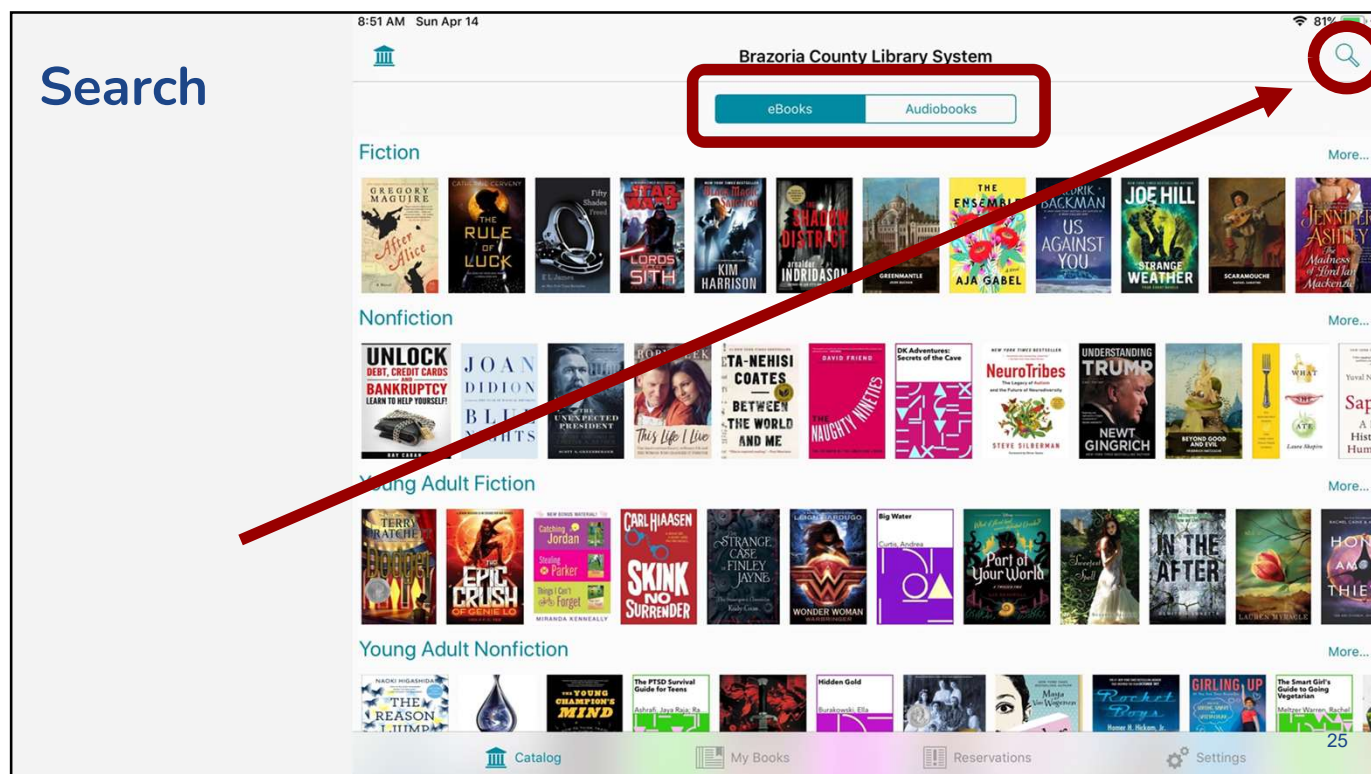


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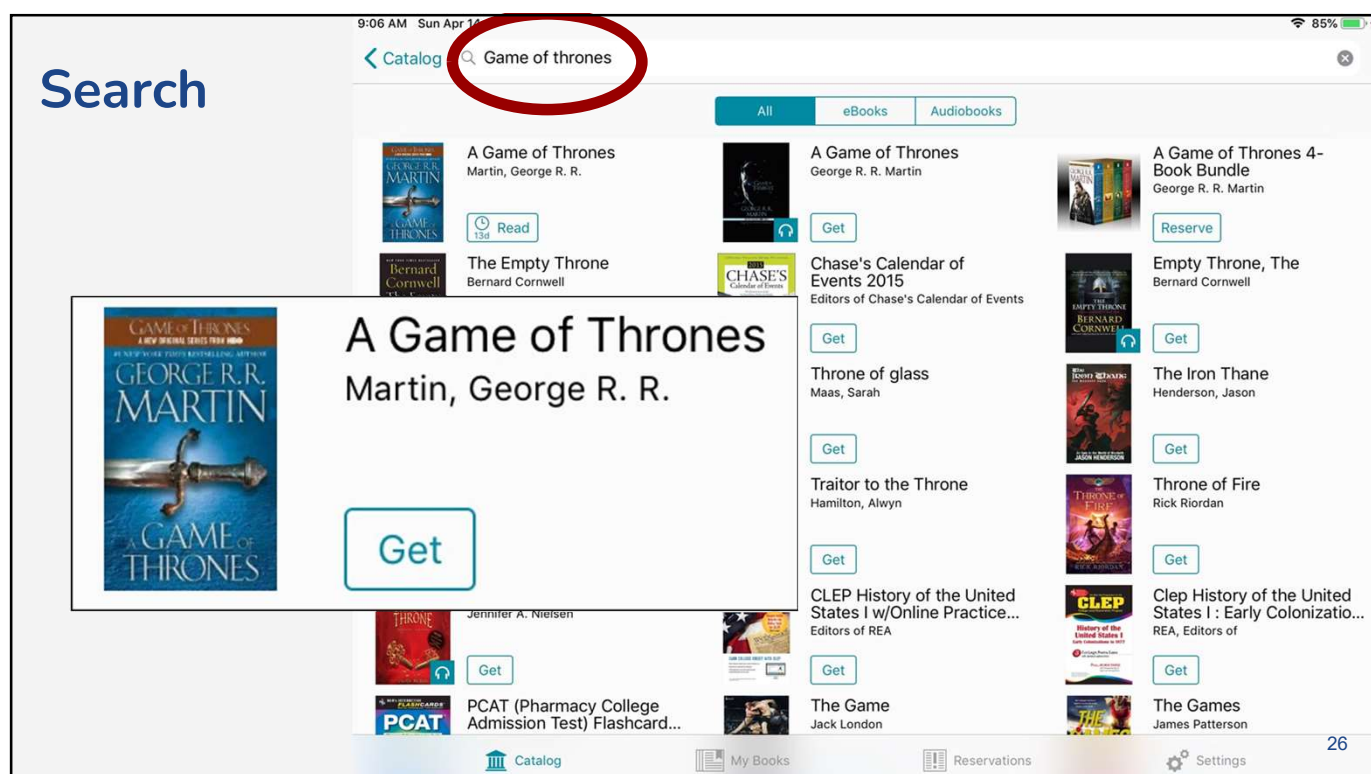
SimplyE Demo



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26

Item Detail

8:37 AM Sun Apr 14

Catalog Game of thrones

A Game of Thrones

Martin, George R. R.

Get

The Empty Throne

Bernard Cornwell

Get

Thrown

Cat Johnson

Reserve

Singles Game, T

Weisberger, Lauren

Get

Shadow Throne,

Jennifer A. Nielsen

Get

PCAT (Pharmacy

sion Test) Flashcard Book

Get

A Game of Thrones

A Song of Ice and Fire: Book One

Martin, George R. R.

Get

This book is available to borrow.

Description

NOW THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES

Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*

More...

Information

Published: December 31, 2002

Publisher: Random House Publishing Group

Categories: Science Fiction; Epic Fantasy; Adventure

Distributed by: Bibliotheca

George R. R. Martin

More...

A Game of Thrones 4-Book Bundle

George R. R. Martin

Reserve

Empty Throne, The

Bernard Cornwell

Get

The Iron Thane

Henderson, Jason

Get

Throne of Fire

Rick Riordan

Get

Clep History of the United Sta

I : Early Colonizations to 1877

REA, Editors of

Get

The Games

James Patterson

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Checkout

8:39 AM Sun Apr 14

Catalog Game of thrones

A Game of Thrones

Martin, George R. R.

Read

The Empty Throne

Bernard Cornwell

Get

Thrown

Cat Johnson

Reserve

Singles Game, T

Weisberger, Lauren

Get

Shadow Throne,

Jennifer A. Nielsen

Get

PCAT (Pharmacy

sion Test) Flashcard Book

Get

A Game of Thrones

A Song of Ice and Fire: Book One

Martin, George R. R.

Read

Return

Your book is ready to read!

It will expire in 14 days.

Description

NOW THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES

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Henderson, Jason

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Throne of Fire

Rick Riordan

Get

Clep History of the United Sta

I : Early Colonizations to 1877

REA, Editors of

Get

The Games

James Patterson

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Read

8:49

A Game of Thrones

Aa

A She frowned down at them with dismay and glanced over to where her sister Sansa sat among the other girls. Sansa's needlework was exquisite. Everyone said so. "Sansa's work is as pretty as she is," Septa Mordane told their lady mother once. "She has such fine, delicate hands." When Lady Catelyn had asked about Arya, the septa had sniffed "Arya has the hands of a blacksmith."

Arya glanced furtively across the room, worried that Septa Mordane might have read her thoughts, but the septa was paying her no attention today. She was sitting with the Pri

8:46

A Game of Thrones

Aa

ABC ABC ABC

A a A a A a

A A

Close

Page 3 of 30 (Chapter 7)

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Listen

9:01 AM Sun Apr 14

84%

< My Books

Seasons of My Mother, The  
Harden, Marcia Gay

08 hr 35 min remaining

00:07 Part 1 of 19 00:27

THE SEASONS OF MY MOTHER

15 sec

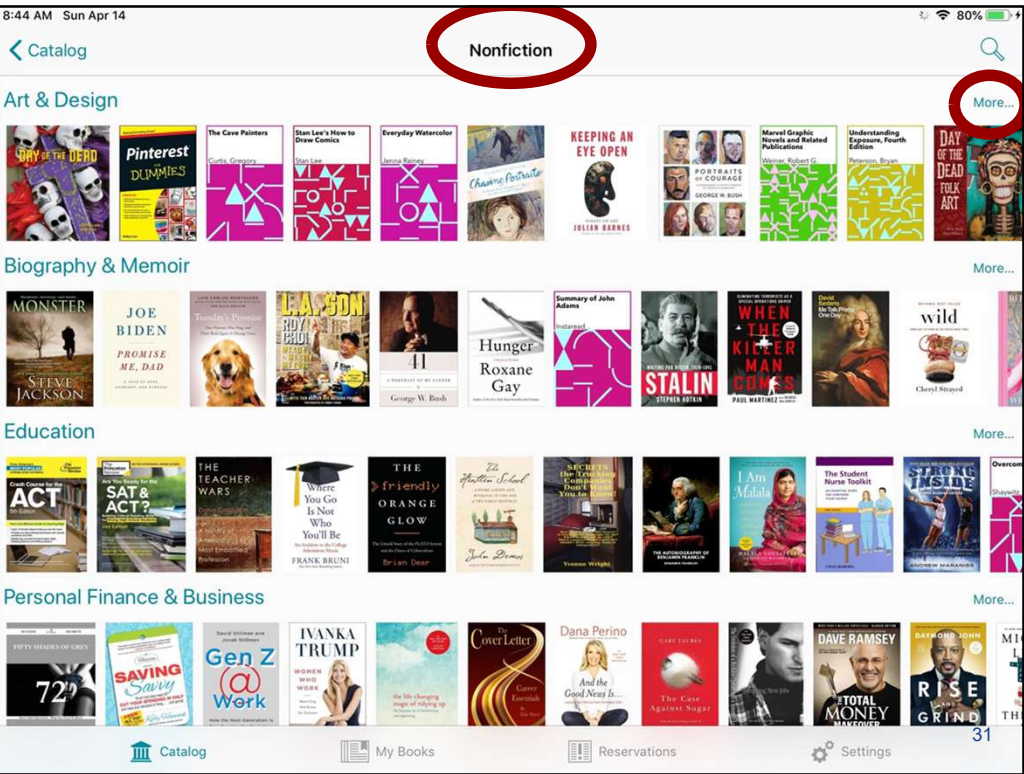
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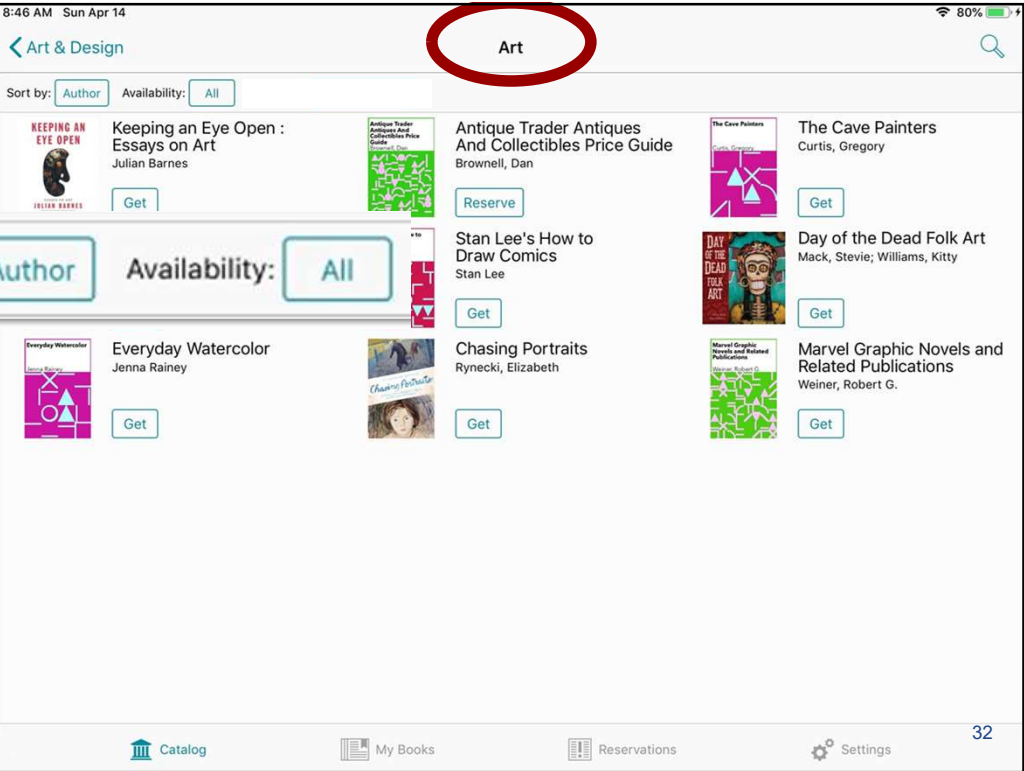
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Subjects

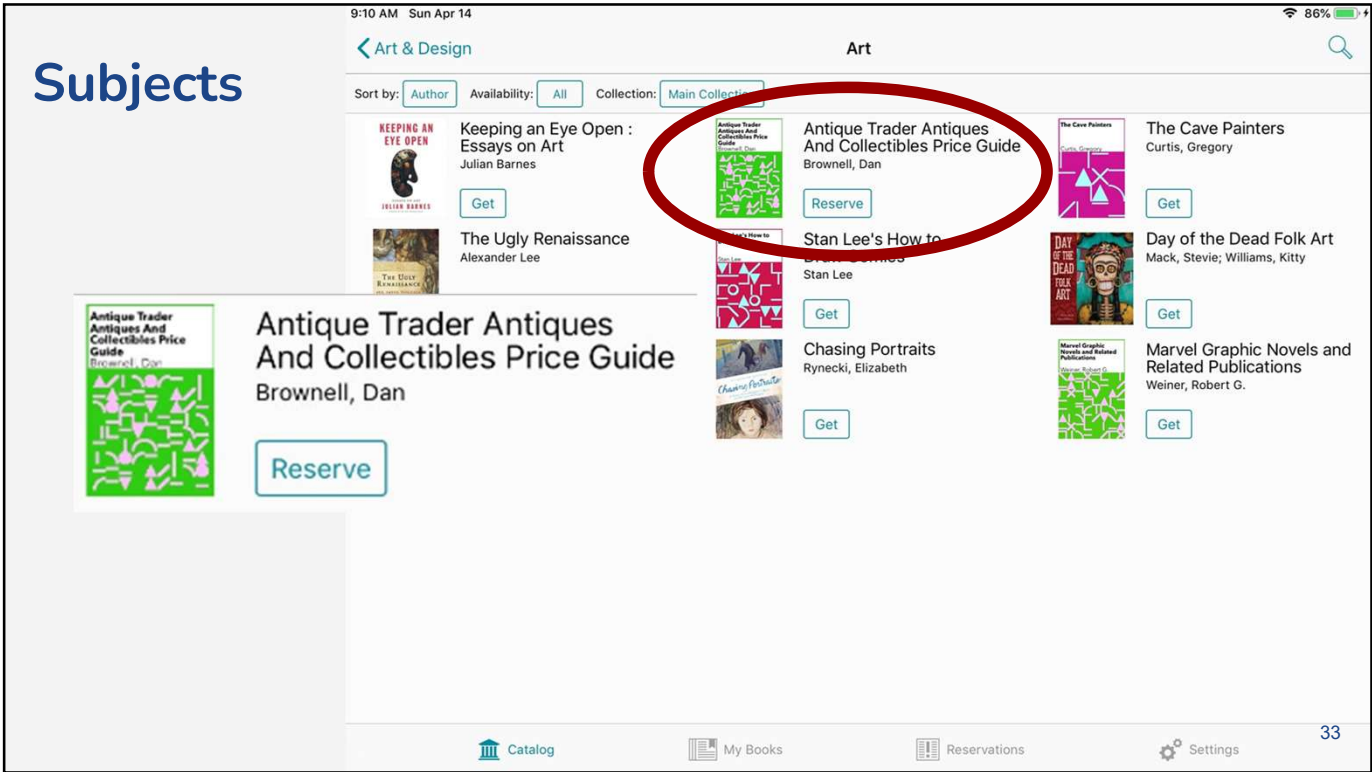


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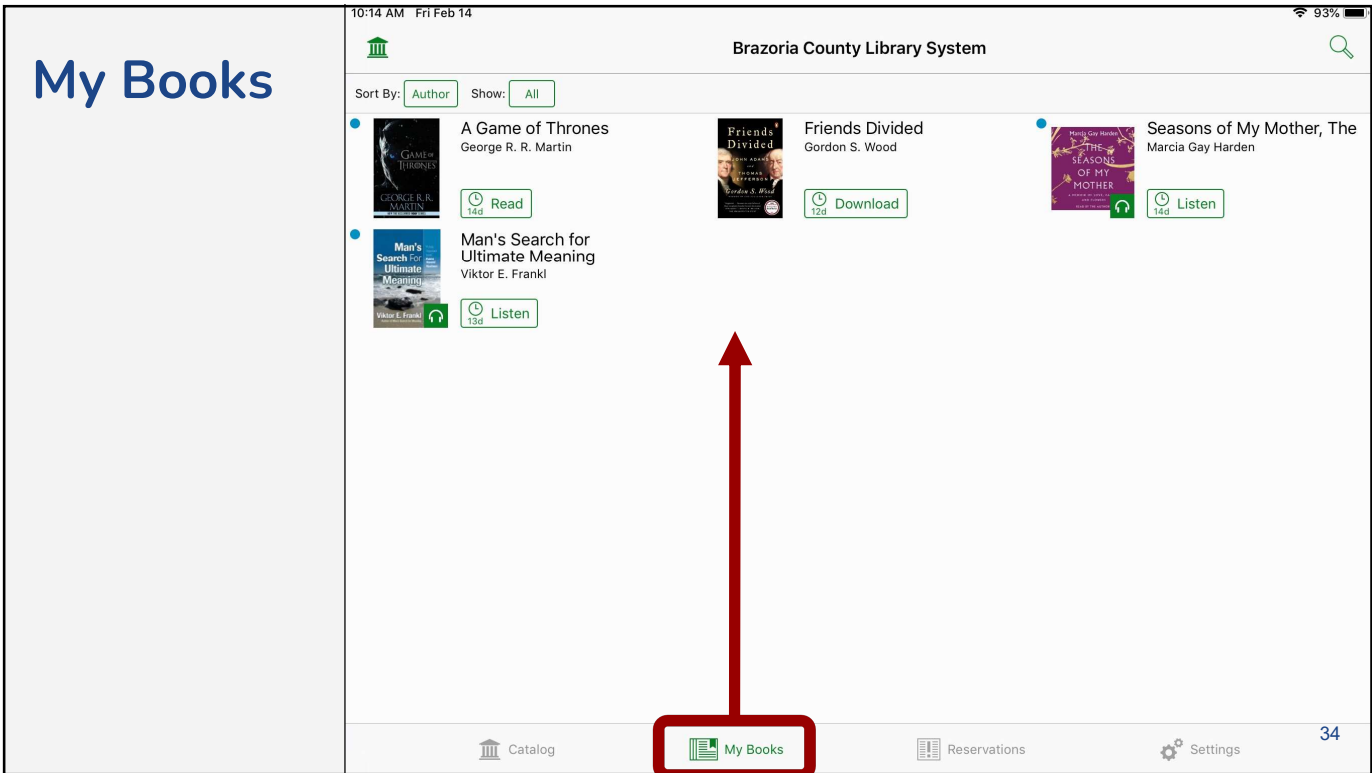
Subjects



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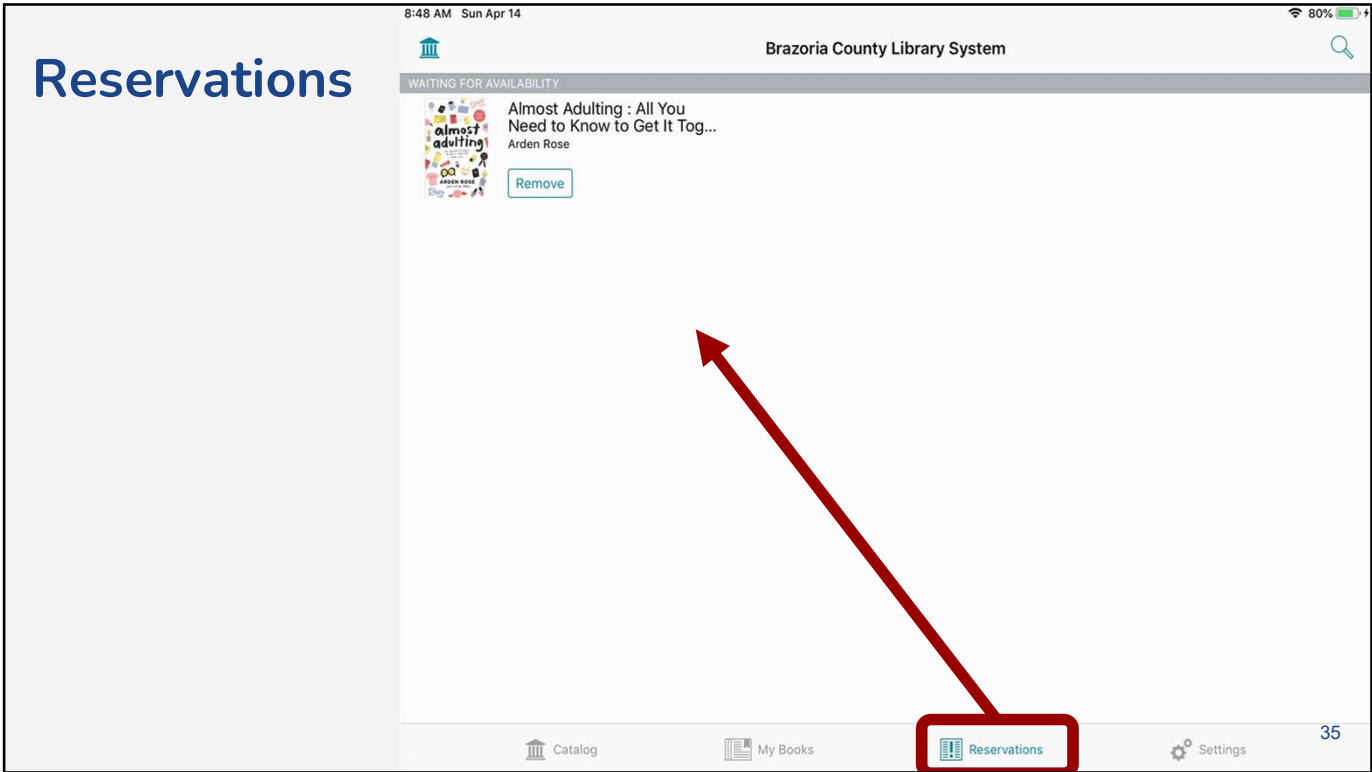


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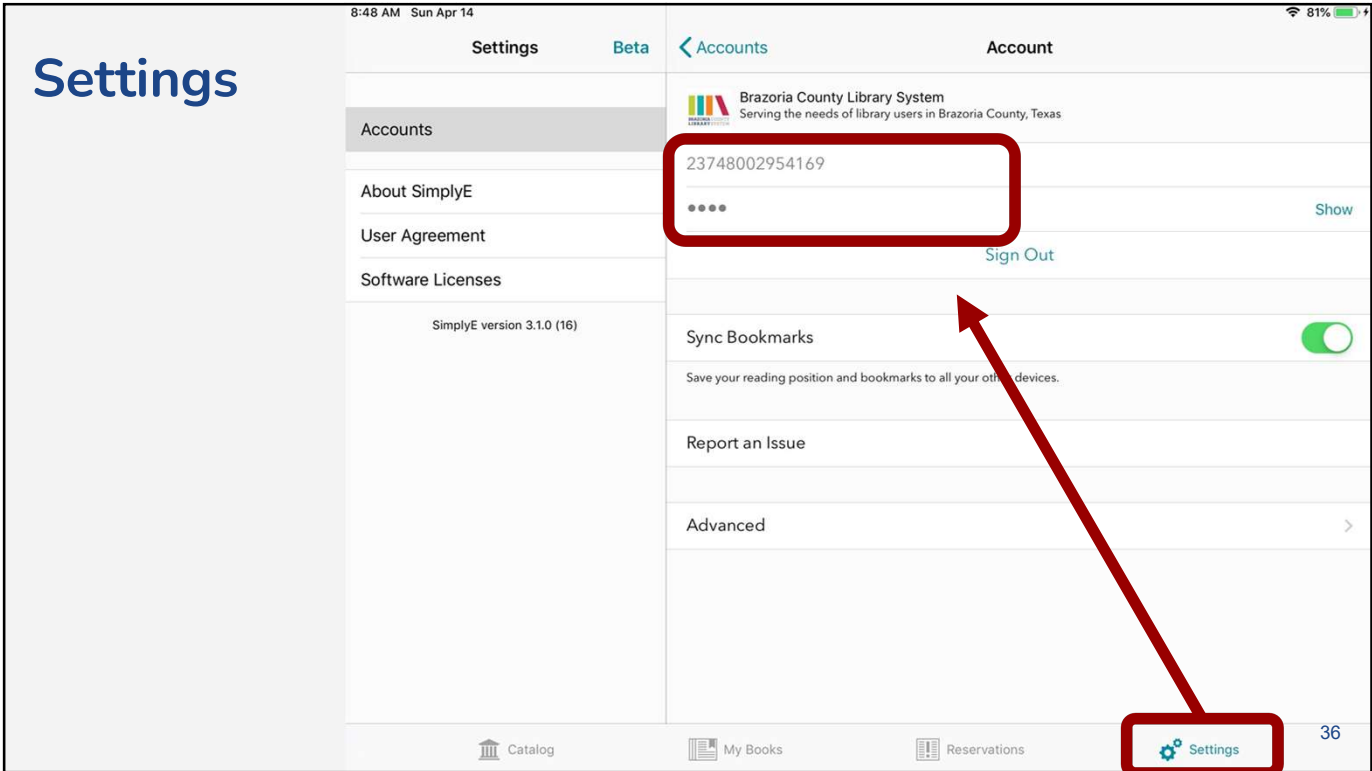


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TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND  
ARCHIVES COMMISSION






CONTACT US | VISIT US | ABOUT US

SEARCH SITE

TRAIL

LIBRARY CATALOG

FIND A LIBRARY



Archives & Reference

Services for Libraries

Talking Book Program

Records Management

[Home](#) >

## E-Read Texas

E-Read Texas brings electronic books to Texans served by small community libraries in all parts of the state. E-Read Texas provides library e-books and an e-reader application that make it possible for all Texans served by public libraries to access e-books.


### SimplyE

TSLAC has partnered with [Amigos Library Services](#) to implement [SimplyE](#), an e-book app, for smaller public libraries. SimplyE was developed by the New York Public Library in partnership with other major libraries in the nation in response to challenges patrons face in accessing e-books. As of May 2020, Amigos has implemented SimplyE for over 70 public libraries from all parts of Texas ([map](#)).

**Contact (for more information)**

- Amigos: [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org)
- TSLAC: [textshare@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:textshare@tsl.texas.gov)

E-Read



TEXAS

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebook>

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## How Do We Start?

- Email:  
[TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org)
  - Agreement
  - Library Information Form
  - 135x135px logo

### E-READ TEXAS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is to record the understanding between AMIGOS LIBRARY SERVICES (Amigos) and \_\_\_\_\_(Library) regarding the terms and conditions on which Amigos will provide SimplyE services to Library.

Amigos Library Services:

- Will host and maintain Library's implementation of SimplyE;
- Will aid Library in configuring the service;
- Will communicate with e-resource vendors on Library's behalf;
- Will provide technical support for Library staff

Library:

- Gives Amigos the authority to communicate with their e-resource vendors on their behalf;
- Will aid Amigos in configuring the service;
- Will market and publicize the service to their patrons;
- Will share marketing materials with Amigos, TSLAC, and other libraries
- Will work with Amigos to troubleshoot and correct issues

This Agreement shall take effect on the latest signature date by authorized representatives of Amigos and Library and shall be renewed annually. This Agreement may be terminated on 30-day written notice by either party.

Authorized signature For Library	Miguel Figueroa For Amigos Library Services
Title	President and Chief Executive Officer
Date	Date

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## How Do We Start?

- Email:  
[TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org)
  - Agreement
  - Library Information Form
  - 135x135px logo

### SimplyE @Amigos Library Implementation Form

Complete and return the following form to [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org). Please let us know if you have any questions!

All items with an asterisk are required.

#### General Information

\*Library Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Website URL (main website, not necessarily the ILS/catalog site): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of active e-resource users: \_\_\_\_\_

Average number of monthly e-resource checkouts: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description or tagline  
*This will be displayed under your library's name in the list of libraries in the SimplyE app. I've included an example on the last page:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Patron support email address  
*The SimplyE mobile apps include an option for users to submit an "issue" to the library. This email address is used for that communication.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*No-delivery email account  
*This is an email account for which email is either immediately deleted or rejected, e.g., [no-reply@amigos.org](mailto:no-reply@amigos.org). If you have one, type it below. If you do not or are not sure, use ours – [no-reply@amigos.org](mailto:no-reply@amigos.org).*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

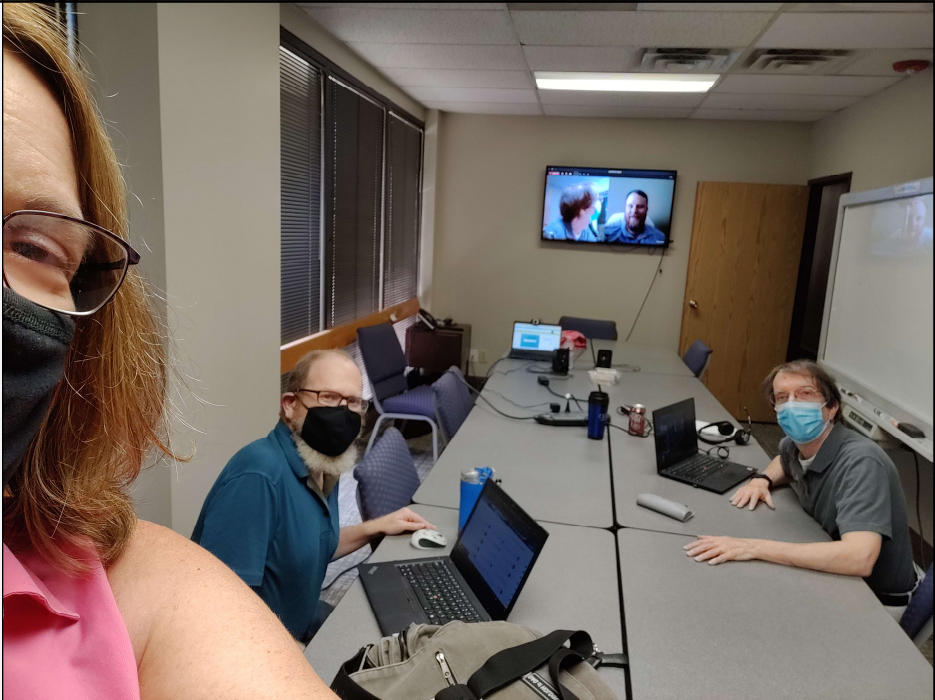
This Agreement
will provide SimplyE services to Library.
Amigos Library Services:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Will host and maintain Library's implementation of SimplyE;</li><li>Will aid Library in configuring the service;</li><li>Will communicate with e-resource vendors on Library's behalf;</li><li>Will provide technical support for Library staff</li></ul>
Library:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gives Amigos the authority to communicate with their e-resource vendors on their behalf;</li><li>Will aid Amigos in configuring the service;</li><li>Will market and publicize the service to their patrons;</li><li>Will share marketing materials with Amigos, TSLAC, and other libraries</li><li>Will work with Amigos to troubleshoot and correct issues</li></ul>
This Agreement shall take effect on the latest signature date by authorized representatives of Amigos and Library and shall be renewed annually. This Agreement may be terminated on 30-day written notice by either party.
Authorized signature For Library
Title
Date

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## Amigos Staff

- **Chris Brown**
  - Configure
  - Test
  - Support
- **Christine Peterson**
  - Program Manager
- **Robert Williams**
  - Technical Analyst
- **Chauncy Garrett**
  - Server Admin



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## Ongoing

- **Library Primary Contact(s):**
  - Require at least one person per library
  - Update us with changes
    - Simplee-users email list
    - Monthly statistics
    - Amigos' primary contact for E-Read Texas
- **Patron questions go to library's email address**
- **TSLAC continues to develop collection**
- **Free SimplyE training - Spring**
  - App Interface & Searching
  - Roles & Library Configuration
  - Modifying Metadata
  - Lists & Lanes
  - Troubleshooting
  - Statistics
  - How to Promote SimplyE for Your Library

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## Promotional Materials from TSLAC

- Printable bookmarks & flyers available by request
- Media kit – available on E-Read Texas website
  - <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
  - Includes draft press release, template letter to elected officials, social media posts, and links to instructional materials



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## SimplyE Materials

[Customizable aids & videos](#)

### Customizable Aids to Help Patrons

Created by Christine Peterson, last modified on Aug 27, 2020

Below are documents that can be used as is, modified and customized by library staff to help patrons understand and use the SimplyE apps. They are the result of a 2020 grant awarded to Amigos Library Services from the Institute for Museum & Library Services through the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Thanks go to not only these three organizations, but Marilyn Jacobs and Joy Markel, who created these documents for us, and Neil Esposito, who create the videos.

**Please Read This First: Letter to Librarians (pptx)**

- Communications Toolkit for Librarians (pptx)
- Getting Started (pptx)
- Palm Card (pptx)
- Poster (pptx)
- Social and Web Graphics
- Webinar Script (pptx)
- Welcome Flyer (pptx)
- Using and Troubleshooting SimplyE (pptx)

Videos:

- 31-second SimplyE Introduction
- 101-second SimplyE Introduction

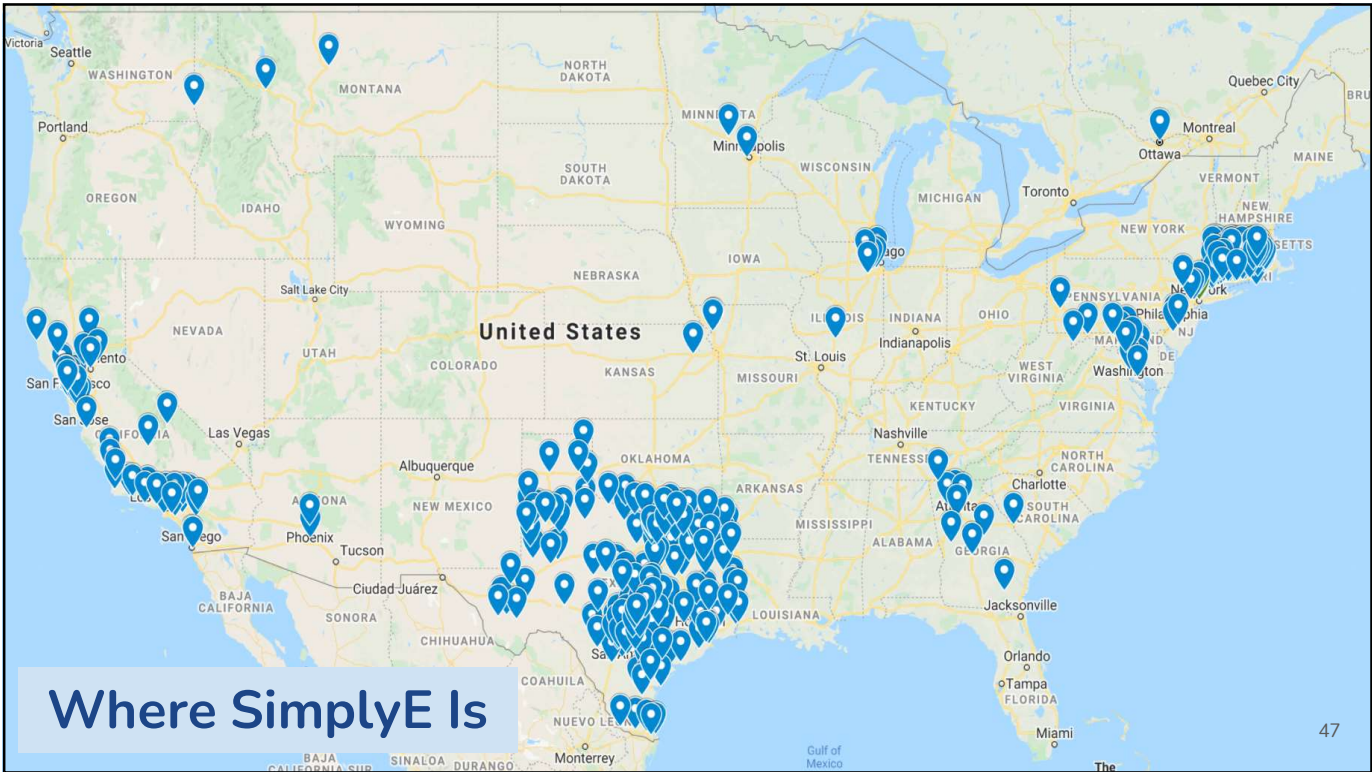
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# Current & Future







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# Try It Yourself

**SimplyE** (4+)

The Library E-Reader  
The New York Public Library

#109 in Books

★★★★★ 4.5 • 3.9K Ratings

Free

Screenshots iPhone iPad

**Borrow eBooks**

**from your local library.**

**No library card?**  
Read classics from SimplyE Collection

**Audiobooks**  
Check your library for availability

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## Next Steps

- Ready now? Send to [TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org):
  - [Agreement](#)
  - [Library information form](#)
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11 am Central
  - Webinar for current participants
  - Updates, advanced features, Q&A

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## Texas State Library & Amigos

### Texas State Library

- Funding
- E-Read Texas collection
- Contact: Karen McElfresh,  
[kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov)
- <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND  
ARCHIVES COMMISSION

### Amigos Library Services

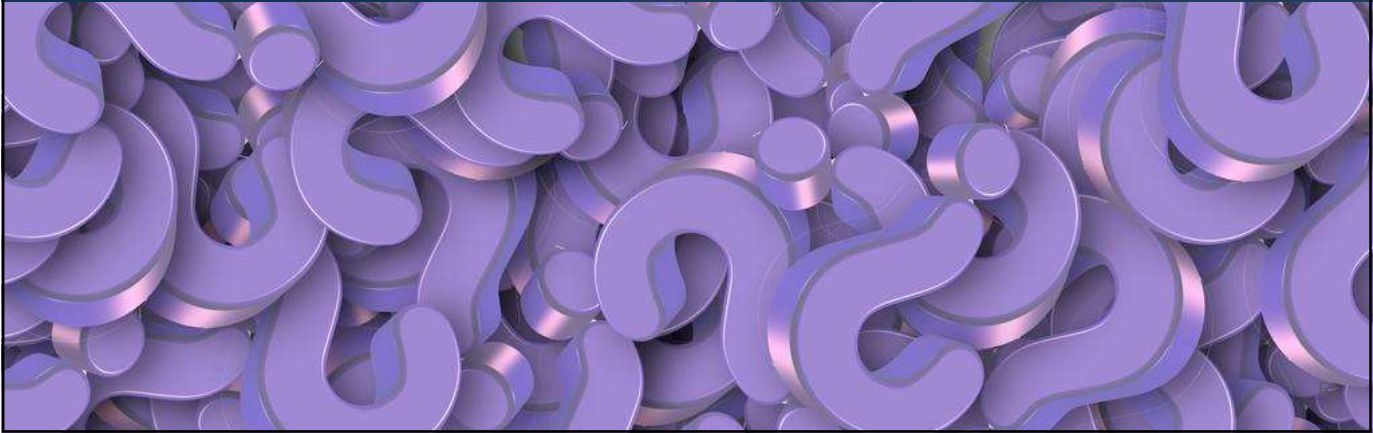
- SimplyE app
- Technical assistance
- Contact: Christine Peterson,  
[TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org)
- <https://www.amigos.org/simplye>



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# Q&A



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# Thank You



Karen McElfresh  
Texas State Library



Christine Peterson  
Amigos Library Services

[TechnologySolutions@amigos.org](mailto:TechnologySolutions@amigos.org)  
[kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov)

*This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission). (2020)*

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